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FIRST NOTICE

This First Notice constitutes **EARLY** notice of events of **POSSIBLE** safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received **WITHOUT** verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Agency Staff at this time.

Date: July 18, 2002

Time: 2:30 PM (MST)

First Notice: 02-9

Arizona Licensee

Arizona Heart Hospital

License No. 07-443

1930 East Thomas

Phoenix, AZ 85016

Contact: Ashok Shah. Phone: 602-485-1622

On July 17, 2002, the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency was notified by the Licensee that a Novoste Beta-Cath system utilizing 55 mCi (2.04GBq) of Strontium – 90 had failed to retract after completing treatment of a patient. Within seconds of determining that a failure had occurred, the Licensee implemented emergency withdrawal procedures and successfully removed the source without causing a misadministration. The patient was surveyed and confirmed that all treatment radioactive material had been removed.

Initial examination by the Licensee did not determine a probable cause for the failure of the return of the source to the shielded condition. The entire system is being returned to the manufacturer for evaluation. Georgia is aware of this event.

Agency continues to investigate this event.

No press coverage is occurring or expected for this event.

The State of Georgia and the U.S. NRC, is being notified of this event.

Contact for additional information: Aubrey V. Godwin
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